

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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**IN RE: METHYL TERTIARY BUTYL  
ETHER ("MTBE") PRODUCTS  
LIABILITY LITIGATION**  
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**Master File No. 00 Civ. 1898  
MDL 1358 (SAS)  
M21-88**

**This document relates to:**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO  
RICO and COMMONWEALTH OF  
PUERTO RICO through the  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
BOARD,**

**ORDER**

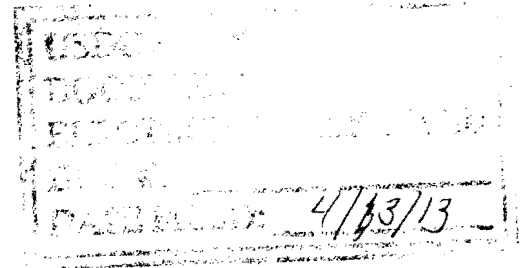
**Plaintiffs,**

**-against-**

**SHELL OIL COMPANY et al.,**

**Defendants.**  
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**07 Civ. 10470(SAS)**



**SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN, U.S.D.J.:**

On March 25, 2013, Defendant Total, S.A. ("Total") submitted a letter to the Court requesting that its time to answer or otherwise plead to the Third Amended Complaint be extended to May 14, 2013. Plaintiffs submitted a response letter to the Court, opposing Total's request, on March 28, 2013; the next day, Total submitted a reply letter in further support of its request. Total was served with the Third Amended Complaint on March 12, 2013, and currently has until April 2, 2013 to answer or otherwise plead. Plaintiffs previously offered to extend

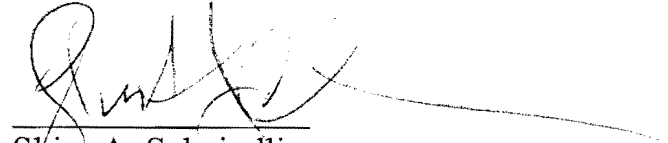
Total's time to answer until April 17, 2013.

After considering the contentions that the parties set forth in their letters, it appears that Total does not require, and judicial efficiency does not commend, granting the requested extension in full. Total's principal reason for asking for an extension of time is so that it may firm up a dispositive motion in lieu of answering the Third Amended Complaint. Based on Total's letters, it appears that such motion would relate to its alleged lack of involvement in the Puerto Rican market.

Granting a fifty-one day extension of Total's time to answer in order that Total may make such motion is excessive. The motions described in Total's letters would be based upon a limited number of facts that are already in Total's possession. Moreover, Total's proposed extension of time would further delay the progress of a six year old case.

In light of the foregoing, Total's request for an extension of time is granted in part and denied in part. Total may have until April 17, 2013 to answer or otherwise plead to the Third Amended Complaint. No further extensions of time will be granted.

SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shira A. Scheindlin', is written over a horizontal line. A long, thin horizontal line extends to the right from the end of the signature.

Shira A. Scheindlin  
U.S.D.J.

Dated: New York, New York  
April 2, 2013